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Book Reviews.

A Harmony of the Books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles, in the Text of the Version of 1884. By WILLIAM DAY CROCKETT, A.M., with an Introduction by WILLIS JUDSON BEECHER, D.D. New York: Eaton & Mains, 1897. Pp. xii+365. \$2.

“The Books of the Kings of Judah and Israel” is the supertitle of this volume. The author has disposed all the material of the three double books named in the title into five books, as follows: (1) until the founding of the monarchy, (2) the reign of Saul, (3) the reign of David, (4) the reign of Solomon, (5) the kingdoms of Judah and Israel. The analytical outline of the matter contained in these books covers forty-five pages, is split up into 183 sections, and many of these sections are subdivided, according to the character of the narrative, into anywhere from two to ten points. Three hundred pages of the body of the book present the biblical material arranged in parallels after the manner of Steven and Burton’s *Harmony of the Gospels*. Duplicate or triplicate records in a single book, such as 1 Chron. 2:18–20; 2:42–49; 2:50–55, are disposed in three parallel columns (p. 52). There is wisely no attempt to put before the eye the absolute parallel in words, but merely the similarity in verbiage, which may be, and sometimes is, simply a different expression for exactly the same Hebrew text. When we reach the fifth book (p. 195)—the kingdoms of Judah and Israel—the problem is more complex. The page is cut into two columns, one for Judah, one for Israel, and into each of these columns is disposed, in narrower columns, the parallel matter of Kings and Chronicles pertaining to each separate kingdom—requiring at times four or even five columns on a single page (as on pp. 197, 211, 269, and 300). An appendix furnishes four pages of references to passages in other parts of the Bible parallel with certain sections of the Harmony. An index for finding any passage in the Harmony concludes the book.

The problems that face a harmonizer of the six biblical books named in the title are not many, but manifold. Other attempts, such as Geneste’s, have solved some of the difficulties, but the new acces-

sions of material from Assyriology and biblical criticism have located more, many and intricate. It may not be possible, and would not be prudent, to introduce some of these questions into a work of this kind. But the direct influence of this new knowledge should be evident wherever it is vital to the arrangement of the matter. About four-fifths of the material compassed in the author's plan easily falls into its natural and chronological order. In the book of Samuel, especially, we find no parallels, or indications of the different narratives (or parallels) of Saul's coronation, or of David's introduction to Saul. But the real test comes in the remaining one-fifth. At the outset we are lost without a timekeeper. Even after some examination, the author's system of chronology is not apparent. No dates are introduced, either in the headlines or in the analysis. Our confusion is the greater because the author runs counter to the Assyrian eponym canon and to the practical agreement of scholars on the chronology of the divided kingdom. This is seen in the insertion of three *interregna*, one of *eleven* years between the reigns of Amaziah and Uzziah of Judah (p. 293), one of *twenty-two* years between Jeroboam II and Zechariah of Israel (p. 295), one of *nine* years between Pekah and Hoshea of Israel (p. 307). Again we find "Sennacherib's first invasion of Judah" (p. 322), 2 Kgs. 18:13-16; and "Sennacherib's second invasion of Judah" (p. 324), while, so far as the fullness of the Assyrian records goes, and they are full on this point, this king never made more than one campaign into the "Westland." Lack of space will not allow us to discuss these points and some others of equal importance. The footnotes are usually the marginal readings, or some remark of the author in justification of his arrangement. If these were somewhat fuller, the reader would be the wiser and the happier. Aside from the points already mentioned, this "Harmony," though not a "*harmony*" in the sense of harmonizing conflicting statements, will do a real service for Bible readers. Its typographical dress is pleasing to the eye, and its form (7×9 inches) is well adapted to the character of its contents.

PRICE.

Philippian Studies: Lessons in Faith and Love from St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians. By H. C. G. MOULE, D.D., Principal of Ridley Hall and formerly Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.

This new work of Principal Moule is, strictly speaking, not a commentary, but a collection of expository studies in the epistle of